



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 27, 1998

H.R. 3829

Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act of 1998

*As ordered reported by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
on July 23, 1998*

H.R. 3829 would establish a procedure for certain federal employees and contract employees to report wrongdoing regarding intelligence activities to the Congressional intelligence committees. The bill would amend the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 and the Inspector General Act of 1978 to require that employees who want to disclose such information to the Congress first report it to the appropriate inspector general. If the inspector general determined that the complaint or information appeared credible, the inspector general would report it to the agency head, who, in turn, would transmit it to the intelligence committees.

CBO estimates that the bill would not have a significant budgetary impact. Although H.R. 3829 would increase the number of complaints that are processed and reviewed by the inspectors general, CBO estimates that the increase in complaints would be slight and that any increase in administrative costs of federal agencies would be insignificant. Also, the costs of informing employees about the new procedure would be negligible because the number of employees covered by the bill would be small and the cost of each notice would be minimal. Because the legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Dawn Sauter. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.